In re: BKY No. 09-50779

Dennis E. Hecker, Chapter 7

Debtor.

### NOTICE OF HEARING AND MOTION FOR AN ORDER AUTHORIZING TRUSTEE'S ABANDONMENT, FORECLOSURE AND SALE OF ASSETS FREE AND CLEAR OF LIENS

To: Parties specified in Local Rule 9013-3.

- 1. Randall L. Seaver, the duly-appointed Chapter 7 Trustee in the above-referenced bankruptcy case ("**Trustee**"), moves the Court for the relief requested below and gives notice of hearing.
- 2. The Court will hold a hearing on this motion at 10:00 a.m. on June 15, 2011 Courtroom No. 8 West, U.S. Bankruptcy Court, 300 South Fourth Street, Minneapolis, MN 55415 or as soon thereafter as counsel can be heard.
- 3. Any response to this motion must be filed and delivered no later than June 10, 2011 which is five (5) days before the time set for the hearing (including Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays). UNLESS A RESPONSE OPPOSING THE MOTION IS TIMELY FILED, THE COURT MAY GRANT THE MOTION WITHOUT A HEARING.
- 4. This Court has jurisdiction over this motion pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §§157 and 1334, Rule 5005 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, and Local Rules 1070-1 and 1073-1. This is a core proceeding. This case was commenced as a voluntary Chapter 7 proceeding on June 4, 2009. The case is now pending before this Court.

- 5. This Motion arises under 11 U.S.C. §§363(b) and (f), 554, Minn. Stat. §336.9-607 and Bankruptcy Rule 6004.
- 6. The ultimate purpose of this motion is to vest the entirety of the membership interests in Austin Capital LLC ("**Austin**") with Atlin, Inc., or its assign, for the sum of \$117,500.00.
- 7. In order to achieve this transfer, the Trustee will first abandon the estate's interest in Austin and Walden Investment Company ("Walden").
- 8. Only upon approval of abandonment, the Trustee will exercise his lien rights (obtained by the bankruptcy estate from Cornerstone Bank by way of avoidance) to foreclose on the equity interests of the Debtor Dennis E. Hecker ("**Debtor**") in both Austin and Walden .
- 9. Only upon approval of the abandonment and the foreclosure, the Trustee will then sell the entirety of the Austin equity interest to Atlin, Inc.
- 10. Austin has two members: 99% of its membership interests are owned by the Debtor and 1% of its membership interests are owned by Walden. Walden, in turn, is 100% owned by the Debtor. The Trustee will sell the entire (100%) membership interest in Austin, brought into the estate by way of the foreclosure of the interest of Cornerstone Bank, to Atlin, Inc.
- Ventures"). Orlin, Inc. ("Orlin"), an affiliate of Atlin, Inc., owns the remaining 50%. PCR Ventures (through wholly owned subsidiaries) owns and operates car rental franchises in Denver and Phoenix under the "Payless" brand. Payless Car Rental Systems, Inc. ("Payless") and Orlin claim that Austin has failed to honor a joint venture agreement and is indebted to Payless and Orlin in amount in excess of \$4.5 million. The Trustee believes that Austin is likely in a substantial default, as Debtor has been unable to fulfill any of his obligations as joint venture for at least two years.

Moreover, the Trustee believes, based on his experiences as a trustee and in this case in general, that there is a limited market for joint venture interests and he has received no purchase offers (other than from Atlin, Inc.) to acquire the Austin interests. Accordingly, the Trustee believes that the proposed price is fair and reasonable under the circumstances of this case, and requests that this Court's order approving the sale to Atlin, Inc. contain a good faith finding under Code Section 363(m).

- 12. Cornerstone Bank possessed a blanket security interest in Debtor's assets, which was perfected on January 19, 2009. That security interest covered, among other things, general intangibles. The Trustee avoided and preserved for the benefit of the estate as a preference Cornerstone Bank's security interest in Debtor's assets pursuant to this Court's Order dated September 8, 2010.
  - 13. The claim of Cornerstone Bank exceeds \$10,000,000.00.
- 14. The Trustee desires to abandon the estate's ownership interest in and to foreclose his security interest in the membership interests of Austin and Walden and bring the assets of those entities into the bankruptcy estate by way of foreclosure. Again, each of these steps is a condition of sale and the agreement to sell to Atlin, Inc. is null and void without Court approval of the abandonment and foreclosure.
- 15. As the Trustee is acting in his capacity as a lien creditor to foreclose on assets which will be abandoned by the estate immediately prior to foreclosure, the tax attributes and liabilities of Austin and Walden which could arise on a direct sale by the estate, will not pass to the bankruptcy estate.
- 16. The Trustee will then sell the entire foreclosed membership interest of Austin to Atlin, Inc. for the sum of \$117,500.00 by transferring to Atlin, Inc.: (a) the 99% membership

interest in Austin previously owned by Debtor; and (b) the 1% membership interest in Austin

previously owned by Walden. Thus, at the end of the transfer, Atlin, Inc. will own all of the

membership interests of Austin, free and clear of all liens, security interests, claims and

encumbrances.

17. Pursuant to Local Rule 9013-2(c), the Trustee gives notice that he may, if necessary,

testify at the hearing regarding this motion.

**WHEREFORE**, the Trustee moves the Court for an order:

(a) Approving of the Trustee's abandonment and, after abandonment, the foreclosure of

the Cornerstone Bank security interest in the equity interests of Austin and Walden;

(b) Approving the sale of 100% of the equity membership interest of Austin to Atlin, Inc.

for the sum of \$117,500.00, obtained as a result of the foreclosure, free and clear of interests in such

property pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §363(b) and (f), with such interests, if any, attaching to the proceeds

of sale with the same priority, dignity and effect as such interests existed pre-petition;

(c) Finding that Atlin, Inc. is a good faith purchaser of the Austin interest, as that term is

used in Code Section 363(m);

(d) Making immediately effective the Order approving sale; and,

(e) Granting such other relief as the Court may deem just and equitable.

LEONARD, O'BRIEN SPENCER, GALE & SAYRE, LTD.

/e/ Matthew R. Burton

Dated: May 17, 2011

By

Matthew R. Burton, #210018

Attorneys for Randall L. Seaver, Trustee 100 South Fifth Street, Suite 2500

Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402

Willineapolis, Willinesota 33402

(612) 332-1030

### **VERIFICATION**

I, Randall L. Seaver, Trustee of the Bankruptcy Estate of Dennis E. Hecker, the moving party named in the foregoing Notice of Hearing and Motion for an Order Authorizing Trustee's Abandonment, Foreclosure and Sale of Assets Free and Clear of Liens, declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct according to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

	/e/ Randall L. Seaver
Dated: May 17, 2011	
•	Randall L. Seaver, Trustee

In re:	BKY No. 09-50779
Dennis E. Hecker,	Chapter 7 Bankruptcy
Debtor.	

# MEMORANDUM IN SUPPORT OF MOTION AUTHORIZING FORECLOSURE AND SALE OF ASSETS

Randall L. Seaver, Trustee ("**Trustee**") seeks approval to sell the equity interest of Austin Capital LLC ("**Austin**") to Atlin, Inc. or its assign. As described in the verified Notice of Hearing and Motion, the sale is being achieved by the Trustee foreclosing the security interest of Cornerstone Bank in the equity interest of Debtor Dennis E. Hecker ("**Debtor**") in Austin and Walden Investment Company ("**Walden**"). The Trustee previously avoided the Cornerstone Bank lien by way of a court-approved settlement.

After abandonment, the effect of this motion will be to bring the equity interests of Austin and Walden into the bankruptcy estate by way of foreclosure of the avoided Cornerstone Bank's security interest. The Trustee will then sell the entire interest of the bankruptcy estate in the equity of Austin to Atlin, Inc.

The Trustee may foreclose the security interest of Cornerstone Bank in general intangibles pursuant to Minn. Stat. 336.9-607 by way of this Court's Order.

To the extent that stay relief is required, the Court may authorize such relief pursuant to 11 U.S.C. §362(d)(1) and (2). There is no equity in the assets to any party other than the Trustee.

The Trustee requests that the Court make clear that the estate, by exercising the lien rights obtained from Cornerstone Bank, is not incurring adverse tax consequences. The Trustee

is bringing Austin and Walden into the estate by way of foreclosure, not by acting on his existing interest in Debtor's stock or membership interests. Once in the estate by way of foreclosure, Section 363 of the Bankruptcy Code provides, in part, as follows:

(b)(1) The Trustee, after notice and a hearing, may use, sell, or lease, other than in the ordinary course of business, property of the estate.

Prior to the foreclosure, the Trustee seeks approval of abandonment of the estate's interest in Austin and Walden. 11 U.S.C. §554. This, again, enables the Trustee to act on those assets in his capacity as a lien creditor.

The Trustee seeks to sell the entire equity interest in Austin to Atlin, Inc. for the sum of \$117,500.00 which the Trustee believes is a fair and equitable price for that interest. The price is also substantially higher than that first offered by Payless Car Rental Systems, Inc. The Trustee believes that it is in the estate's best interest, and in the best interest of its creditors, that the Court approve the motion before the Court.

The Trustee requests that the Court approve the sale without a stay pursuant to Bankruptcy Rule 6004(h).

#### **CONCLUSION**

The Trustee requests that the Court approve of his foreclosure of the lien rights obtained from Cornerstone Bank, without tax consequence to the estate, and approve the Trustee's sale of the entire equity interest of Austin to Atlin, Inc.

### LEONARD, O'BRIEN SPENCER, GALE & SAYRE, LTD.

/e/ Matthew R. Burto	or	1
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Dated: May 17, 2011 By\_\_\_\_\_

Matthew R. Burton, #210018 Attorneys for Randall L. Seaver, Trustee 100 South Fifth Street, Suite 2500 Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402 (612) 332-1030

UNSWORN CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE			
	Debtor.		
Dennis E. Hecker,		Chapter 7	
In re: BKY No.: 09-50779			

I hereby certify that on May 17, 2011, I caused the following documents:

Notice of Hearing and Motion for an Order Authorizing Trustee's Abandonment, Foreclosure and Sale of Assets Free and Clear of Liens, Memorandum of Law and Order (proposed)

to be filed electronically with the Clerk of Court through ECF, and that the above documents will be delivered by automatic e-mail notification pursuant to ECF and this constitutes service or notice pursuant to Local Rule 9006-1(a).

I further certify that I caused a copy of the foregoing documents to be mailed by first class mail, postage paid, to the following:

### SEE ATTACHED SERVICE LIST

/e/ Stephanie Wood

Dated: May 17, 2011

Stephanie Wood 100 South Fifth Street, Suite 2500 Minneapolis, MN 55402 (612) 332-1030

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In re:	BKY No. 09-50779
Dennis E. Hecker,	Chapter 7 Bankruptcy
Debtor.	

#### **ORDER**

This case is before the court on the motion of the chapter 7 trustee for approval of his foreclosure of assets pursuant to lien rights obtained by the trustee pursuant to his avoidance powers, for approval of a sale of the foreclosed assets, and other relief.

Based on the motion and the file and the court being fully advised in the premises,

### IT IS ORDERED:

- 1. The trustee's request for court approval of his abandonment of the bankruptcy estate's ownership of the equity interests of Austin Capital LLC and Walden Investments Company is approved.
- 2. The trustee's request for approval of the foreclosure utilizing lien creditor rights as to the equity interests of Austin Capital LLC and Walden Investments Company is approved.
- 3. The trustee's request for court approval of the sale of the entire equity interests of Austin Capital LLC to Atlin, Inc., or its assigns, for \$117,500.00 is approved.
- 4. The trustee shall not incur a tax liability or create adverse tax consequences to the bankruptcy estate by his foreclosure of the liens rights of Cornerstone Bank or his sale of interest of Austin Capital LLC. The trustee will recognize the entire amount, \$117,500, from the foreclosed sale of the equity interest in Austin Capital, LLC as interest income in the year received since this payment represents accruing interest income on the underlying loan balance

in excess of \$10,000,000.

5. Atlin, Inc. shall be a good faith purchaser of the equity interests as that term is

used in Bankruptcy Code Section 363(m).

6. As a result of the foregoing transfers, Atlin, Inc. will be the owner of 100% of the

membership interests in Austin Capital LLC.

7. This order effects and gives approval to abandonment, foreclosure and the sale.

To the extent it deems it necessary or desirable, the trustee is authorized to execute any and all

documents requested to effectuate these transactions.

8. This order shall be immediately effective upon entry and will serve as evidence

for the transactions described herein. This order shall not be subject to stay under any provision

of the Bankruptcy Rules, including Bankruptcy Rule 6004.

Dated:	
	United States Bankruptcy Court Judge
438188	